

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2011
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name: **DeGray Lake Field Office**

Handshake Proposal Title: **DeGray Lake Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike/Hiking Trail System**

Corps POC Name: **Jody Dvorak, Resource Manager And Renea Guin, Natural Resource Specialist**

Telephone: **(870) 246 - 5501 ext. 4010**

E-Mail: **martha.r.guin@usace.army.mil**

A. Eligibility checklist:

1. Is the funding going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained at 100% federal expense? * ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

2. Is the agreement with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? * ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved OMP? ** ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

4. If no, when will the OMP be updated and approved? (example: Sept 10)

**If "No" to either question 1 or 2 the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority.*

*** If "No" to question 3 and the date provided in answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of your proposed challenge partnership your activity can not be authorized.*

B. Handshake Funding Program Request (maximum \$25,000): \$ 25,000

C. Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus: Challenge Partnerships that include an organization (cooperating associations, friends groups) with which your project/district has recently (after January 1, 2009) entered into a Cooperating Association Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. You must include a copy of the signed agreement with your proposal. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

Date of Cooperating Association Agreement: (must be after January 1, 2009 to be eligible).

D. Incentive Points Categories: Check the box for each category that applies to your Challenge Partnership Agreement and include an explanation in the project description (Section E.). Qualifying applications will receive bonus points on their evaluation score.

☐ Utilizes an existing National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - National Partner MOU's are posted on the NRM Gateway <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/list.html>). Local and regional chapters of national partner organizations are eligible. Groups must be an intended signatory to the agreement in order to qualify for the bonus points.

☐ Includes a veterans and/or military family organization. Groups must be an intended signatory to the agreement in order to qualify for the bonus points.

☒ Presidents Challenge - Active Lifestyle Program: Project provides specific opportunities for children and their families to get outdoors and participate in activities in order to receive a Presidents Active Lifestyle Award. http://www.presidentschallenge.org/the_challenge/active_lifestyle.aspx

E. Describe your partnership and the proposed project:

Your project will be evaluated on the following categories: Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Benefit, Communication and Education Value, and Innovativeness. Please address each in your description. Also address incentive point categories you have identified in Section D.

Description:

The DeGray Lake Field Office respectfully requests the funding to establish a Challenge Partnership Handshake Project. The partnership with Clark County Strategic Planning will continue to construct and maintain a barrier-free Geo-Trek Interpretive trail; a 1-mi 10ft wide loop in DeGray Lake's overflow spillway. This 1 mile route focuses on geologic examples and processes exposed when the spillway outlet was excavated in 1972 and would provide an all-weather, accessible path with interpretive exhibits, providing a truly world-class facility. Additionally this request to be used to add 8.5mi, 4ft wide natural surface trail, connecting the spillway area with 10.6 mi of natural surface trail presently under construction funded through a 2008 RTP grant award. This project application will also aid in constructing an area trail head on the north end of the trail system located within DeGray Lake's project area.

Like many other Corps of Engineers projects, DeGray Lake offers unique natural resource features that support mission essential tasks; moreover, these resources are of great importance to special interest groups. One such group, the geological community, visits DeGray Lake project lands to study rock strata outcrops that were exposed during the construction of DeGray Dam, Spillway, and associated structures. University geology departments, oil company geologists, and the Arkansas Geological Survey make annual pilgrimages to the DeGray Lake Spillway to investigate the superbly exposed sedimentary rocks of the Jackfork Formation. This formation is termed "world class" by geologic investigators and is considered one of the most studied and visited exposure of its type in the world.

Ancient deep water submarine fan deposits exposed at DeGray Lake provide a model that geologists apply to similar present day submarine fan systems. These systems are the leading petroleum producing reservoirs worldwide. Every time a petroleum product is utilized, one can indirectly credit DeGray Lake for providing a laboratory of sorts in providing a standard that is utilized by the petroleum exploration industry.

Charles Stone, Geologist Supervisor retired, for the Arkansas Geological Survey has studied Arkansas geology for more than forty-five years. Mr. Stone, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, provided field mapping assistance to the Lake Ouachita Field Office in developing the nationally known Ouachita Geo-Float Trail. He personally assisted Vicksburg District geologist, George Hunt, with initial field investigations prior to the construction of DeGray Dam in the early 1960's. Mr. Stone routinely leads field excursions to study rocks exposed at DeGray Lake.

Another group, the avid bicyclist, hiker and runner, visits DeGray Lake project to enjoy the beautiful scenery and not quite as heavily traveled Skyline Drive in which to enjoy their outdoor sporting recreation. Multiple events are currently held at the Spillway Area involving biking, hiking, running, and swimming. Already additional events are being scheduled based upon the expected completion date of a 10.6 mile natural surface trail that is presently under construction funded through a 2008 RTP grant award, the start of which is located approximately 2 miles from the Spillway Area. An additional grant is currently being requested by Clark County Strategic Planning to create an additional 8.5 miles of trail system which will connect to the 1.0 mile Geo-Trek portion located at the Spillway Recreation Area. Visitors to DeGray Lake's visitor center constantly ask about trail systems close by; this will allow for a perfect opportunity to provide convenient access for a fun recreational experience.

Sustainability

Annually, some 10,000 geology enthusiasts study the DeGray Lake Spillway. Unfortunately, conditions in the Spillway hamper the overall value of the experience. For example, due to wet conditions, field excursions are

limited to the drier months and even then require waterproof footwear to safely and effectively visit the resource. In addition, due to the wet conditions, undesirable vegetation makes walking difficult and hinders views of the outcrops. However, if funding is granted along with matching funds that have been pledged by Clark County Strategic Planning and the geology community, an all terrain surface and drainage system will be placed along the trail route to abate the unfavorable conditions. It is estimated that if these improvements are made, some 30,000 visitors will utilize the resource annually. From earth science middle school classes to professional petroleum geologists, along with many outdoor enthusiasts, the DeGray Lake Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike Trail System will benefit our customers and will increase service and value to the Nation.

Partnership Value

Because of the rock outcrop resources and their vital importance to the geologic community, partnering opportunities are boundless. Clark County Strategic Planning has pledged matching funds that will significantly enhance the project success and sustainability. The University of Oklahoma and Schlumberger have pledged assistance with the trail guide brochure and logistical support. This handshake project also supports the Army's Global War Against Terror by providing the National Guard with training opportunities to include rappelling, orienteering and logistics. DLT Events, Inc., a local/national athletic event coordinator, hosts the DeGray Lake Triathlon each year at DeGray Lake. DLT Events, Inc. has already begun scheduling mountain bike races in the near future. This will create the perfect partnership for future events bringing in thousands of enthusiasts nationwide each year for the races and training for future events.

Recreational Benefit

The Geo-Trek portion of the interpretive trail will provide recreational benefit to the novice rock hound, to the middle and high school earth science classes, college and university field geology field camps and to professional petroleum geologists. The Mountain Bike/Hiking portion of the interpretive trail will provide a new bike trail for DeGray and an additional hiking trail. In addition, both types of trail systems will provide a location for DeGray visitors to walk, hike, bike, run and ultimately enjoy the unique natural resource to include rock outcrops, forestry, birds, wildlife and aesthetic value of the "foot hills of the Ouachita Mountains" and ultimately increase sustainability. The trail will be located in the immediate vicinity of the Spillway Recreation Area that offers a comfort station, drinking fountain, parking lot, boat launch ramp, security lighting and security patrol by ranger and contract law enforcement personnel. The trail is conveniently located within a half mile of the DeGray Lake Visitor Center, Arkansas Scenic 7 Byway and I-30.

Environmental Stewardship Value

The Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike Trail System will provide access to the natural resource (rock formations) while improving Flood Damage Reduction features. As stewards of public lands, the Corps of Engineers at DeGray Lake is dedicated to providing a quality outdoor recreational experience with the safety of our visitors held as its highest concern. Approving this request for trail grant funding will allow the DeGray Lake Field Office the avenue to ensure an enjoyable outdoor recreational experience for present and future generations. This interpretive trail will ensure the availability of this natural resource. Stewardship also increases the benefits that our customers derive from these natural resources. Wisely managed lands and waters contribute to the purity of our air and water, to the fertility of our soil, and to the natural control of flooding along our rivers and streams. Stewardship reduces siltation in our reservoirs, maintaining their water storage for hydropower, navigation, and water supply. It also contributes to the variety and abundance of our fish and wildlife, and to the attractiveness of our lands and waters.

Communication and Education Value

The Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike Trail System will offer the Corps of Engineers interpretive staff a venue to tell the Corps Story as it relates to management of water resources, specifically in respect to flood damage reduction, water resources, hydropower, water supply, navigation, environmental stewardship,

emergency response, recreation and overall value to our nation. In addition, our partners will have the opportunity to tell their story.

Innovativeness

The Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike Trail System will have similar aspects and features when compared to the nationally known, Lake Ouachita Geo-Float Trail, the first water based geologic interpretive trail in the country plus offer an expanded hiking/bicycling system for a broader recreational experience. Both types of trail systems will offer unique aspects for all types of interests for our customers. Geo-Trek will offer the opportunity to experience a resource in which geologic investigators will travel great distances and stimulate the local economy to study the sedimentary rocks termed "world class" by the petroleum industry and considered one of the most studied and visited exposures of its type in the world. The mountain bike trail will offer a fun and more physically challenging aspect to DeGray Lake's trail system.

The Corps will:

Provide limited local funding, manpower, equipment, subject matter expertise and logistical support to accomplish the Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike Trail System partnering project. Specifically, the Corps will remove the woody vegetation that is essentially blocking the view of the rock outcrops, mow grasses, and control drainage problems by installing culverts and fill materials. Additionally, the Corps will build and maintain the trail route. The DeGray Lake interpretive staff will provide guided talks and tours highlighting geological processes, mission essential tasks, safety, environmental stewardship, forestry, fish and wildlife, and tell the Corps story.

The Partner(s) will:

Clark County Strategic Planning, Schlumberger, and the University of Oklahoma will provide matching funds, provide professional geological expertise with respect to trail stop topics, kiosks and assist with trail brochure subject matter and illustrations. Funding will also be utilized to award a contract for trail and parking lot paving. The Geo-Trek Volunteers will: Charles Stone, retired geologist, will continue to serve as volunteer Geo-Trek consultant. Additional volunteers will assist with signage maintenance, painting, parking lot striping, cleanup and potentially interpretive programming assistance. The Mountain Bike/Hiking Volunteers will: assist in clearing the corridor and tread, then final grooming after tread construction and future maintenance along the trail system.

Incentive Point Category: Presidents Challenge-Active Lifestyle Program.

Clark County Strategic Planning realizes that healthy lifestyles bring enjoyment to life more abundantly, sets an example by which others can follow, and participants act as a role model for today's youth. Local event coordinators for mountain bicycling events provides kid categories within their event scheduling along with clinics for learning opportunities to aid families in getting involved. DLT Events, Inc., a local event coordinator, working closely with Clark County Strategic Planning, supports area charities and encourages them to participate by supporting them with scholarships and activities. "It is the belief within DLT that if we assist on the front end of providing youth with the knowledge to choose the "right path" that the next generation will be better than the present. Secondly, we help to support Teen Challenge, so that those that have strayed from the path can be provided the assistance they need to help to become productive in our communities again."

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Degray Lake Field Office

Work Project Title: Degray Lake Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike/Hiking Trail System

POC Name: Renea Guin

Address: 729 Channel Rd

City: Arkadelphia

State: AR

Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870-246-5501

Location on Project: Degray Lake Field Office

Partner Organization 1: Clark County Strategic Planning

POC Name: Shelley Lowe

Address: 605 Main St, Suite 203

City: Arkadelphia

State: AR

Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870-246-1065

Partner Organization 2: Schlumbger

POC Name: Rick Kear

Address: 1515 Poydras St.

City: New Orleans

State: LA

Zip Code: 70112

Telephone: 501-858-2440

Partner Organization 3: University of Oklahoma

POC Name: Roger Slatt

Address: 100 E. Boyd, Rm 810

City: Norman State: OK

Zip Code: 73019

Telephone: 405-325-3253

Proposed start date of work: Jan-11

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Construct and promote a 1 mile geological and 8.5 mile Mountain Bike/Hiking interpretive trail system with guide books and kiosks highlighting geological features and trail routes.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	\$25,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
Equipment Use	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$109,720	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$115,720
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$2,850	\$2,850
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A		\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$40,000	\$25,000	\$109,720	\$5,000	\$3,850	\$183,570
Share of Total Cost	21.8%	13.6%	59.8%	2.7%	2.1%	100%

Explanations: Two maps attached illustrate the location of both trail systems. Materials and supplies from the Corps and Handshake will go toward purchasing of surface material for the 1.0, 10 foot wide Geo-Trek portion of the trail system, parking lots, interpretive stops and kiosks. A portion of the \$109,720.00 from partner 1 is dependent upon funding from a grant for Clark County Strategic Planning.

